



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

CAMBODIANS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY IN AUSTRALIA IN 2012

On 14 December 2011, H.E. Ms Penny Richards, the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, will host a function to farewell 33 Cambodian students who have been awarded Australia Awards scholarships undertake postgraduate study in Australia.

These 33 students come from the Cambodian Government, civil society and the private sector and will pursue their Masters or PhD programs at several prestigious universities in Australia in 2012, fully-funded by the Australian Government. Their courses of study will be in the key areas of health, gender, social services, agriculture, fisheries, environmental management, rural development, urban development, law and justice, public financial management, information technology, and infrastructure.

The Australia Awards provide opportunities to people from developing countries across the world to study in Australia. Awardees are high achieving individuals and potential leaders who want to gain the necessary knowledge, skills and expertise to support the long term development of their country.

The Australian Awards foster positive government to government as well as people to people links. It is these relationships that will help to build the business, academic and social links that will support both local and regional development.

Australia is committed to promoting higher education and human capacity development within the Asia Pacific region. Since 1994, over 470 Cambodian students have been awarded long term development scholarships funded by the Australian Government. Of these, over 310 awardees have successfully completed their post graduate qualifications and returned to Cambodia with high quality professional skills. They are making a valuable contribution to Cambodia's social and economic development, with many progressing to senior roles in the civil service, civil society and the private sector. In 2011, 50 Cambodians were selected for fully funded postgraduate study under the Australia Awards scholarship program.

The Australian Embassy is proud to bid farewell to this impressive and diverse group of Cambodian scholars and wishes them all the best for their personal and academic journey in Australia.

For more information about the Australian Awards, please visit: www.australiaawards.gov.au

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